measures towards devolution has been circulated to all the States/UTs for speedy implementation.

Environmental Clearance for Mumbai-Pune Expressway

890. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given the environmental clearance for the proposed Mumbai-Pune expressway; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have shown their willingness to clear the project during the discussion between the State Government and the Prime Minister on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forest has cleared part length of the proposed Mumbai-Pune Expressway from Environmental angle.

Road Accidents in Delhi

891. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Hindustan Times of 11th September, 1997, Delhi, with an average six road deaths every day, records the highest number of accidents in the country per year and one of highest in the world;

(b) if so, the number of road accidents in Delhi in 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far and the toll of human life claimed thereby; and

(c) the rasons for such a situation and the steps taken and planned to be taken up to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Report of National Highways in West Bengal

892. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total National Highways in Km. in West Bengal;

(b) whether more than fifty per cent of the same is in bad condition and require immediate repair/rehabilitation' if so, the strench of National Highways, requiring repair in the State; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the form of plan and non-plan funds allocated in 1997-98 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The total length of National Highways in West Bengal is 1676 Kms.

(b) Reports of poor condition of Sections of National Highways i.e. NH 6, 2, 34 and 31 in West Bengal have been received. Repair and rehabilitation works, to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition within available resources, are in progress.

(c) Rs. 52 crores and Rs. 19.61 crores have been allocated as plan and non-plan funds for this purpose.

Funds for Strengthening of National Highways

893. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the demands for funds made by the States from his Ministry for strengthening, widening surface, improvement, new alignment and new bridges on National Highways during the last three years;

(b) the funds allotted during the above period;

(c) the funds demanded for non-plan works on National Highways by States during last three years; and

(d) the funds allotted during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) Due to meagre allocation of funds to this Ministry, demands for funds made by States could not be met.

However, a statement of funds allotted to the States during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 is given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 22*]

New National Highways in Gujarat

894. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has made proposals for declaring new National Highways in the State, if so, what is the current status of these proposals and whether Government are accepting these proposals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any provision has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan to declare New National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The proposals forwarded by the State Government of Gujarat for declaration of new National Highways could not be acceded to due to resource crunch in the 8th Plan.

(c) Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

Construction of Six Track Mumbai-Pune Express Highway

895. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct six track Mumbai-pune Express Highway in Maharashtra was pending for so many months in the different Central Ministries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have okayed the proposal recently; and

(d) if so, what were the grounds of giving No Objection Certificate to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Environmental clearance for part length of the Expressway has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Financial condition of CRF

896. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and the financial condition of Central Road Funds (CRF);

(b) the guidelines for allocation of the share to different States and Union Territories from this funds;

(c) the share of Bihar from CRF during the last two years, year-wise;

(d) the reasons for allocation of lesser funds to Maharashtra as compared to other States; and

(e) the position of Maharashtra so far as National Highways are concerned vis-a-vis other States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Central Road Fund (CRF) is a non-lapsing fund and is governed by an old resolution of Parliament whereby an amount not less than 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of custom & excise levied on motor spirit, is set apart and the proceeds thereof have to be applied for the purpose of road development.

(b) The fund is allocated to various states in proportion to the consumption of motor spirit in the respective states as well as schemes sanctioned and availability of funds.

(c) The funds allocated to Bihar from CRF during the last two years are as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	25.00
1996-97	10.00